

Holcombe House
Lambertville, Hunterdon County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-56

HABS
NJ
10-LAMB
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS
N.J.
10. LAMB.

Holcombe House
Lambertville, Hunterdon County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Closson
Bridge and Main Streets
Lambertville

Date of Erection: Middle eighteenth century

Architect:

Builder: John or Richard Holcombe

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone;
the house originally
consisted of a two story
main unit and a one story
wing of stone. A second
story of frame has been
added to the wing.

Interior walls - plaster

Inside stone and inside
brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

On November 16, 1705, John Holcombe of
Abington, Pennsylvania, purchased three hundred and

fifty acres from Richard Wilson of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, at what is now Lambertville. The property that Holcombe purchased had been originally owned by Gilbert Wheeler and Richard Bull. John Holcombe was the first settler in what is now Lambertville. It is assumed that he came shortly after his purchase. He married Elizabeth Woolrich of Abington in February, 1707. Family tradition has it that the Holcombes came originally from Devonshire. Some believe they first settled in Massachusetts; others believe they came direct to Pennsylvania. They were suppose to have been Friends. The wife of John Holcombe was an active Quaker, and there is frequent mention of Holcombes in the Buckingham's Friends Meeting, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

A tablet on the house reads - "Washington's Headquarters - Coryell's Ferry, N. J. (Lambertville) July 28-31, 1777, June 21-22, 1778". After the British took Fort Washington and later Fort Lee, Washington retreated across New Jersey. His headquarters was at the Falls of the Delaware on the Pennsylvania side opposite Trenton. There were troops along the river up to Coryell's Ferry. The troops stationed opposite the ferry were under the command of Lord Sterling, and fortifications were thrown up on the hill back of New Hope, Pennsylvania. Washington made the house of Richard Holcombe his headquarters while he stayed in Coryell's Ferry. Richard Holcombe was the youngest son of John.

Bibliography:

Snell, J. P. History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1881

Gallagher, S. A. Early History of
Lambertville, New Jersey Trenton,
Mac Crellish and Quigley, 1903

W. P. R. R.
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

9/5/57